

**MINUTES
AMENDED
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

Tuesday, June 30, 2009
Council Chambers
Municipal Building
93 Cottage Street
Bar Harbor, Maine

I. *Call to Order at 2:04 PM by the chair, Patricia Samuel.*

Members present: Barry Teater, Chris Vincenti, Matt Horton, James Houghton (Howdy), Chris Fogg, Mark Hanscome, Randy Sprague, Patricia Samuel, Chair.

Also present: Anne Krieg, Planning Director; Lauren Suerth, Planning Intern.

II. Excused Absences

John Kelly and Karen Baksa were excused from the meeting.

III. Minutes

James Houghton moved to accept the minutes from last week as corrected, Chris Fogg seconded. The Task Force approved unanimously.

IV. Regular Business

Randy Sprague asked about the necessary changes to the Comprehensive Plan to accommodate for Town Hill Mini-Plan. Anne Krieg clarified this issue to the Task Force.

Chris Fogg asked about the charge of the Economic Development Task Force. Anne Krieg stated that the purpose of the Task Force is to implement the Comprehensive Plan as it relates to economic development. The purview of the Task Force was discussed.

A. Drafts Review

Pat Samuel requested clarification on Town Council's acceptance of Fall Town Meeting orders at their June 16, 2009 meeting. Anne Krieg confirmed that the Council put the Town Hill Mini-Plan and the Downtown Village orders on the June 2010 ballot.

Task Force discusses the Design Review Board jurisdiction change to Town Hill Village District Order. Anne Krieg states existing and proposed Design Review Board (DRB) jurisdiction in Town Hill.

Matt Horton expresses concern about the survival of small businesses due to the effects of the standards proposed in the Order. He also expresses concern about the public's understanding of the Land Use Orders.

1. Downtown Business I and II and Shoreland General Development

2. Downtown District standards

3. Table of Permitted Uses

Current copy will be provided at next month's meeting.

4. Parking Standards

5. Home Occupations

Town Council voted to have this order go to the Fall Town meeting.

6. B&B definitions

Transient accommodations definitions are completed except for "Country Inn." Need to change so the definition states lodging as the primary use, and restaurant serving breakfast and dinner open to the public as an accessory use.

B. Road repair, State DOT Update

Matt Horton gave an update of his actions for this initiative and stated his position as the Bar Harbor liaison.

Anne Krieg suggested that Matt Horton meet with Dennis Damon and Elsie Flemings.

Chris Fogg proposes that members of Task Force and/or the community go to the Council, and bring our issues to the Senators.

Patricia Samuel expressed that Matt Horton has support from the EDTF, and volunteers participation of EDTF members to aid Matt Horton's efforts.

C. Business Licensing

Patricia Samuel informed the Task Force that she gave an update to Town Council on EDTF's intent and goals for a business inventory at their June 16, 2009 meeting. She informed the Task Force that Council requested clarification about how the Task Force was going to identify the businesses that do not pay taxes, and how they were going to collect the information for the inventory.

Anne Krieg informed the Task Force that she hired a consultant to create an economic development plan for Bar Harbor, and part of their report is to develop a business inventory.

1. Goal

Barry Teater stated that the goal of the business inventory is to know what businesses we have and what we do not have, so we can promote specific industries/services through policy.

2. Operations

Chris Fogg stated that the Council does not want the inventory to be collected through the ordinance.

Members of the Task Force identified and discussed various methods to create the business inventory, which include the Personal Property Tax list, the Police Department, Maine Department of Revenue, the Chamber of Commerce list, and the Economic Development Plan.

Discussion extended to high speed internet access.

Chris Fogg expressed concern over ongoing updates to the list. Randy Sprague recommended talking to the Town of Camden regarding their business inventory and how they maintain their inventory for the Town Report.

Anne Krieg mentioned that the Task Force can create an electronic form on the Town website that functions similar to the 'request a room' service currently provided.

Matt Horton stated that he would like the Task Force to develop a 'wish list' of businesses. Pat Samuel informed members that the Task Force once started this initiative, and that she has notes from their previous conversations. She will provide these notes at the next meeting.

Task Force talked about how the inventory will be used by the general public, and their ability to access the list. Pat Samuel expressed need for a form on the Town website of what to know and do if you are a business moving to Bar Harbor. It was emphasized that the purpose of the list is to identify people providing services for those looking to utilize their business. The list is not regulatory.

Horton recommended providing an incentive for those that register their business for the inventory, such as reducing or eliminating their personal property tax. This would also attract businesses to the Town. Discussion continued about the personal property tax.

Chris Fogg questioned how the Town knows when a new business moves into Town. Anne Krieg explained various situations and methods in which the Town is informed about new businesses.

Chris Fogg agreed to gather information for the business inventory from existing lists.

James Houghton expressed concern over the term "business licensing," and stated that it gave a bad connotation. All agreed to change the language to "business registry."

D. Membership

Available positions include Town Hill resident, realtor, and College of the Atlantic. The Acadia National Park representative has not been able to attend.

Anne Krieg asked the Task Force if they would like to recommend that the Council make those at-large positions. Task Force agreed to try to recruit members from those constituencies one last time.

Task Force discussed methods to attract people to fill those positions.

E. Economic Development Plan

Anne Krieg gave each Task Force member a copy of the contract between the Town of Bar Harbor and Planning Decisions, Inc. for an economic development plan. She explained the process and purpose of the plan for the Town of Bar Harbor.

She asked the Task Force when they would like the consultant to attend one of their meetings. The Task Force agreed on their August 11, 2009 meeting.

Randy Sprague stated that he wants the contract to specifically mention Town Hill and Sailsbury Cove as areas in which the Economic Development Committee will gather information "on the character of and issues surrounding."

V. Public Comment

Diane Vreeland of Indian Point Road came to the EDTF meeting to represent the Town Hill Village Improvement Society (VIS). She informed the Task Force that VIS has a vision and wish list of businesses in the area. She clarified that VIS wants Design Review Board (DRB) jurisdiction in Town Hill. Matt Horton cautioned the Town Hill VIS about a false sense of security with DRB jurisdiction.

Diane Vreeland addressed issues with the moratorium vote, and explained some voter confusion on what the vote meant.

She also noted that the VIS is concerned with the road infrastructure in Town Hill. She requested that the EDTF road repair efforts be extended to Route 102.

Randy Sprague encouraged Diane Vreeland and other members of the Town Hill Commission to serve on the EDTF. The Task Force requested that she come back to the EDTF with a list of concerns and desired businesses from the VIS.

Jeff Anderholm requested a copy of the Country Inn definition when it is done. Pat Samuel said that she will e-mail it to him when it is finalized.

VI. Matters for Next Meetings

Review the Table of Permitted Uses. The existing list will be provided at the next meeting.

In conjunction with the business registry initiative, the Task Force will create a list of desirable businesses in Bar Harbor.

VII. Confirm Date/Time/Location for Next Meeting

July 14th, 2009 at 2:00 PM

August 11th, 2009 at 2:00 PM with Planning Decisions, Inc.

VIII. Adjournment at 3: 40 PM.

These minutes were prepared by Planning Department Intern, Lauren Suerth, for review at the July 14, 2009 Economic Development Task Force Meeting.

Barry Teater
Economic Development Task Force Secretary

Date